

Appl. No. 10/019,650

Art Unit 3761

December 30, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An absorbent article which is provided with a liquid permeable surface sheet, a liquid impermeable leakage-prevention sheet and a liquid-retaining absorbent is formed substantially oblong, and is provided on longitudinal opposite sides thereof with a pair of right and left, elastic member-carrying three-dimensional guards,

wherein said three-dimensional guards each has a skin-contacting surface portion formed by folding back a side on a free side towards the outer side of said absorbent article, and

said a first set of elastic members are ~~respectively~~ disposed and fixed to (i) said skin-contacting surface portion and ~~to~~ (ii) a second set of elastic members are disposed and fixed to an approximately widthwise central portion of a raised portion, wherein said raised portion is located between said skin-contacting surface portion and a base end of said three-dimensional guard.

2. **(Currently Amended)** An The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a total width of said elastic member disposed on

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said skin-contacting surface portion is larger than a total width of said elastic member disposed on said raised portion.

3. **(Currently Amended)** An The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a ratio (W1/W2) between a width W1 of said skin-contacting surface portion and a width W2 of said raised portion is 0.1 to 1.0.

4. **(Currently Amended)** An The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a stress of said skin-contacting surface portion is larger than a stress of said raised portion.

5. **(Currently Amended)** An The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a leg portion has no leg gather, and when said raised portion is bisected in the width direction into a lower half portion and an upper half portion, a stress of said lower half portion is larger than a stress of said upper half portion.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said skin-contacting surface portion is folded back along said elastic member at a part of the location of said elastic member nearest to said raised portion.

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7. (New) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid permeable surface sheet;

a liquid impermeable leakage-prevention sheet; and

a liquid-retaining absorbent interposed between said liquid permeable surface sheet and said liquid impermeable leakage-prevention sheet;

wherein said absorbent article is substantially oblong and comprising a pair of right and left, elastic member-carrying three-dimensional guards located on longitudinal opposite sides thereof;

wherein each of said three-dimensional guards has a skin-contacting surface portion formed by folding back a side on a free side towards the outer side of said absorbent article; and

said elastic members are respectively disposed and fixed to:

(i) said skin-contacting surface portion; and

(ii) an approximately widthwise central portion of a raised portion, wherein said raised portion is located between said skin-contacting surface portion and a base end of said three-dimensional guard;

wherein the elastic members in the skin-contacting surface portion of the three-dimensional guard are disposed at a smaller interval relative to the elastic members in the raised portion.

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8. (New) The absorbent article according to claim 7, wherein a total width of said elastic member disposed on said skin-contacting surface portion is larger than a total width of said elastic member disposed on said raised portion.

9. (New) The absorbent article according to claim 7, said absorbent article further comprising a waist three-dimensional guard having elastic members disposed on longitudinal opposite end portions.